

STAR BLAZER

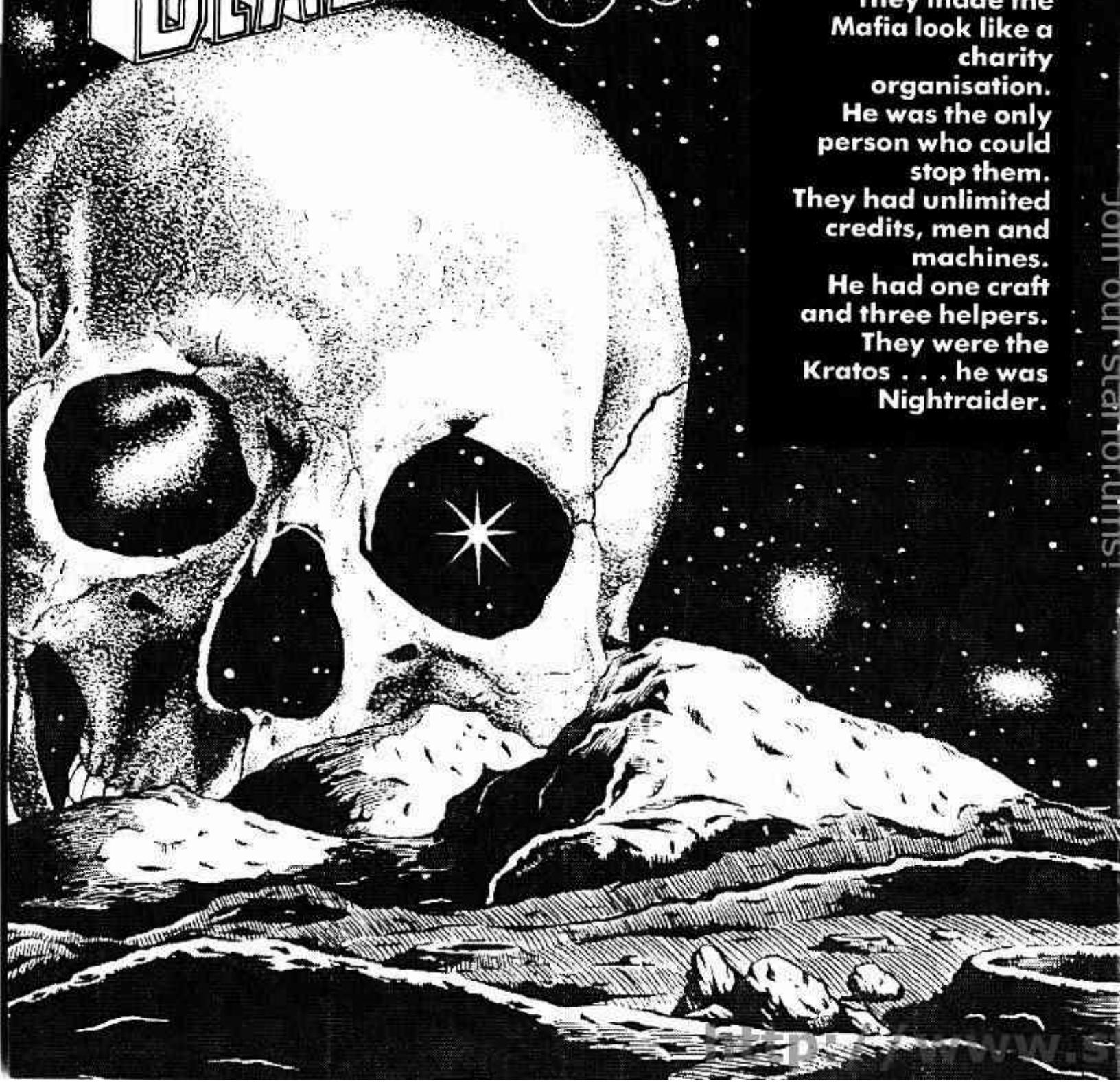
FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES No 172 24p

NIGHTRAIDER

STAR BLAZER

FANTASY FICTION IN PICTURES

They made the Mafia look like a charity organisation. He was the only person who could stop them. They had unlimited credits, men and machines. He had one craft and three helpers. They were the Kratos . . . he was Nightraider.



Join our Starblazer!

NIGHTRANGER

ON THE ASTEROID CHIRON, A LAW
STARSHIP, ASTERIOS, AWAITED A VISITOR: A
TURNCOAT, A SUPERGRASS, A SQUEALER.



ON BOARD THE SHIP WERE FOUR AGENTS LED BY GARRY CLARK, BETTER KNOWN AS NIGHTRAIDER.

ANYTHING ON THE SCREENS
YET, TYPHON?

NOTHING, CHIEF. JUST
ASTEROIDS AND SPACE DUST.



HOOKED INTO THE NEUROWEB, URSA
BECAME PART OF THE SHIP — ITS SENSORS
WERE HIS SENSES. HE DETECTED THE TINY
SHUTTLE EVEN AS IT SLIPPED FROM COVER.

HERE HE COMES, SIR.
BEARING EIGHTY-TWO.

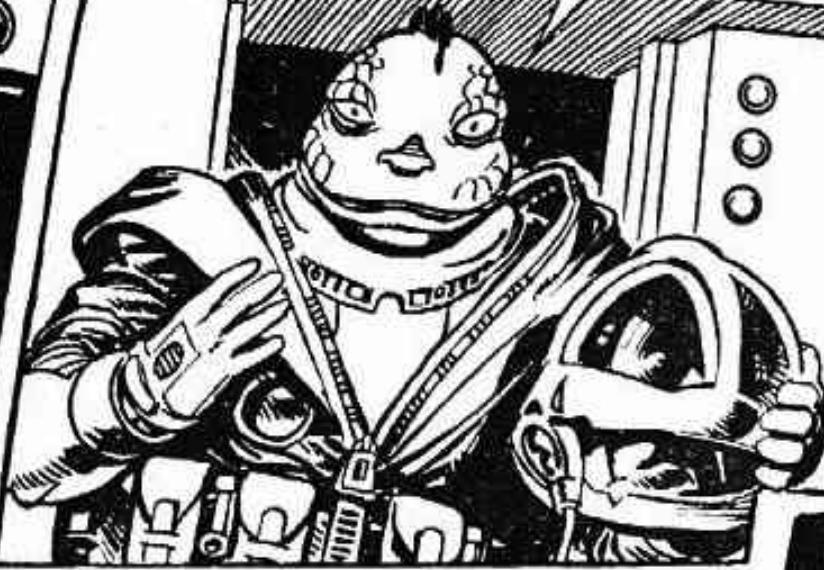
THE SHUTTLE LANDED, DOCKED, AND THE
SINGLE OCCUPANT BOARDED THE ASTERIOS,
GREATLY TO SAMURO, THE CYGNAN'S,
CONSTERNATION.

ABOMINATION! IT'S
AN ANDROMORPH!

EASY, SAMURO! HE'S
ON OUR SIDE, REMEMBER!

THE AIRLOCK DOOR HISSED OPEN—

GOOD-DAY, PEOPLE OF EARTH — I AM CRIOS. BEFORE I LEAD YOU THROUGH THE RED SPOT, THERE ARE CONDITIONS I MUST MAKE. AS YOU SEE I AM AN ANDROMORPH — A BIO-CONSTRUCT BANNED FROM ANY CIVILISED PLANET. BUT I WISH TO LIVE ON EARTH.



MY PRICE FOR BETRAYING MY KRATOS OVERLORDS IS CITIZENSHIP OF EARTH. I MUST BE RECLASSIFIED AS HUMAN.



THE STARSHIP LIFTED OFF AND WITH DIRECTIONS FROM CRIOS, URSA SENT IT PLUNGING TOWARDS THE DEADLY RED SPOT OF JUPITER.

FOLLOW MY INSTRUCTIONS EXACTLY, PILOT — A DEGREE OFF AND THIS SHIP WILL BE TORN APART BY THE CORIOLIS WINDS.

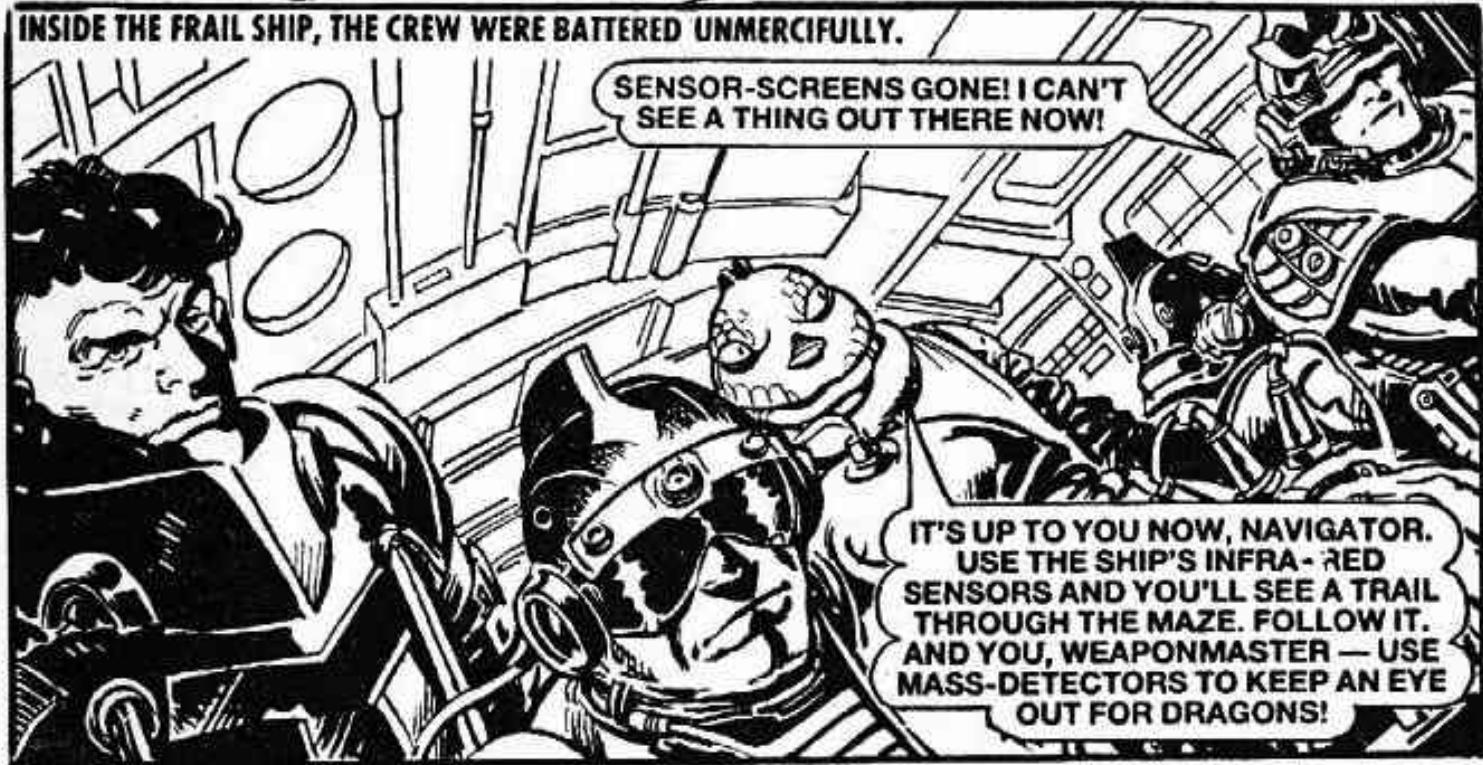


I'LL DO ALL I CAN, BUT I CAN PROMISE NOTHING. BUT FIRST, PART OF THIS DEAL WAS THE LOCATION OF THE KRATOS CRIMINAL ORGANISATION'S DRUG BASE, AND ITS DESTRUCTION! WHERE IS IT?

THE ASTERIOS ENTERED THE MAELSTROM, AND WAS IMMEDIATELY ENGULFED BY THE TREMENDOUS WINDS THAT SPUN ETERNALLY AROUND THE GAS GIANT.



INSIDE THE FRAIL SHIP, THE CREW WERE BATTERED UNMERCIFULLY.



THE DRAGONS OF JUPITER WERE KRATOS DEFENCE DRONES THAT FIRED SUPERHEATED HYDROGEN—



THERE'S THE FORTRESS!
GOOD SHOOTING, SAMURO!

GERYON WAS THE KRATOS
DRUG FORTRESS, FLOATING IN
THE CALM EYE OF THE RAGING
RED SPOT.

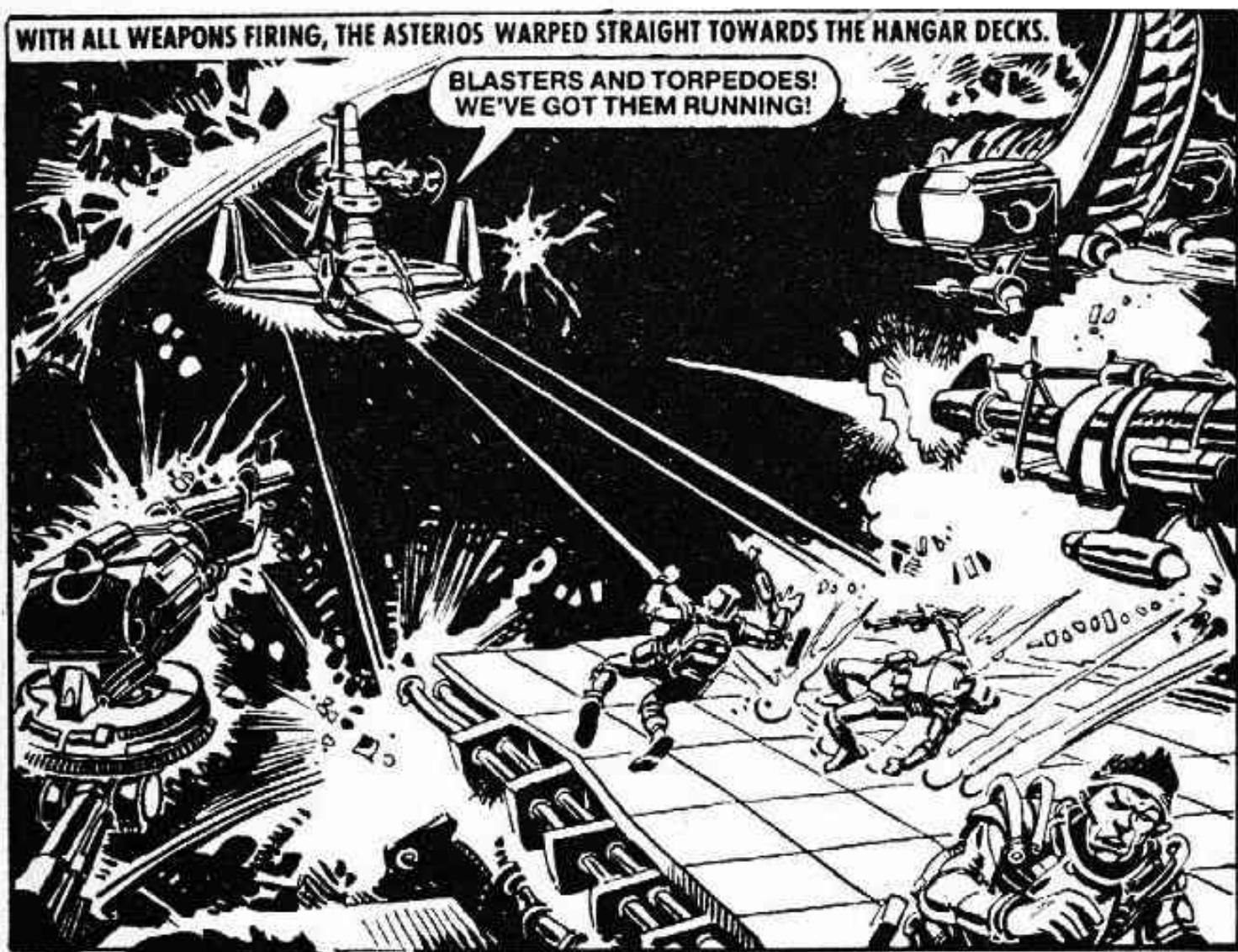
HARROWLY AVOIDING A STREAM OF DEADLY SUPERHEATED
GAS, THE STARSHIP PLUNGED DEEPER INTO JUPITER'S
ATMOSPHERE.

WE'VE MADE IT!
WHAT NOW, CRIOS?

KEEP LEFT — IT'S LESS WELL
DEFENDED, AND A GOOD STRIKE
INTO THE HANGAR DECKS COULD
WELL FINISH IT.

WITH ALL WEAPONS FIRING, THE ASTERIOS warped straight towards the hangar decks.

BLASTERS AND TORPEDOES!
WE'VE GOT THEM RUNNING!



DRAGON CRAFT ATTACKED, SPITTING OUT SUPERHEATED HYDROGEN, BUT URSA DODGED IT EASILY.

A CANNON SHOT HIT THE DRONE SQUARELY.

DELAY THE TORPEDOES, SAMURO. CAN YOU SHOOT THAT DRAGON DOWN?

WELL DONE! NOW, URSA. LET'S TRY NOT TO LEAVE TOO MUCH PAINT ON THE BASE'S HULL!

I'LL TRY!

FULL POWER!

GOOD! LET'S HOPE WE MAKE ENOUGH SPACE BECAUSE ONCE OUR TORPS BLOW, THE EFFECT OF THE BLAST AMONGST ALL THESE ATMOSPHERIC HYDROCARBONS ...

... WILL BE UNTHINKABLE!

THE KRATOS DRUGS BASE Erupted
WITH A VIOLENT CONCUSSION, AND THE
FLAMMABLE ATMOSPHERE OF THE RED SPOT BURST INTO LIFE.

BUT AS JUPITER'S VIOLENT WINDS BLEW OUT THE FLAMES, ANOTHER MENACE DRIFTED IN.

JOVIAN VACUUM FEEDERS! ALL THAT HEAT'S ATTRACTED THEM.

EVASIVE ACTION! WE MIGHT OUTRUN THEM AS LONG AS WE STAY CLEAR OF THOSE TENTACLES.

MADE IT!

THE STARSHIP BLASTED THROUGH.

THE ASTERIOS PULLED CLEAR OF JUPITER AND RACED BACK TO EARTH.

ALL SCREENS CLEAR, CHIEF. NOW WOULD YOU MIND TELLING ME WHAT EXACTLY AN ANDROMORPH IS — AND WHY SAMURO'S SO REVOLTED BY OUR GUEST?



GARRY BEGAN TO EXPLAIN THAT TEN YEARS PREVIOUSLY, DURING THE CLONE WARS, BIOLOGICALLY CONSTRUCTED ANDROMORPHS WERE USED IN HOSTILE ENVIRONMENTS WHERE HUMANS COULDN'T GO. BUT ROBOTS DEVELOPED QUICKLY AND PROVED LESS FALLIBLE THAN ANDROMORPHS. THE ANDROMORPHS WERE RECALLED TO BE RECYCLED, BUT THE PROBLEM WAS THAT AS ANDROMORPHS WERE HUMAN SUBSTITUTES THEY HAD CERTAIN RIGHTS. RECYCLING WAS DEEMED MURDER. SO INSTEAD, THE FEDERATION DECLASSIFIED THEM AS HUMANS AND SENT THEM INTO EXILE.

ON EARTH, THE ARRIVAL OF NIGHTRAIDER'S TEAM AND THEIR GUEST CAUSED MORE THAN A LITTLE EXCITEMENT—

... SAMURO IS A CYGNAN, FROM THE PURE BRED HIGH CASTE! HE SEES ANDROMORPHS AS "CREATIONS OF THE DEVIL", AND HIS RELIGION DEMANDS THAT HE ELIMINATE ANYTHING EVIL.

THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION HAS ANNOUNCED THAT DUE TO PUBLIC REACTION THEY WILL RECONSIDER THEIR DECISION TO RECLASSIFY THE ANDROMORPH, IN ORDER TO ALLOW HIM . . . IT . . . TO LIVE AMONG US.



THE ASTERIOS LANDED AMIDST AN ANGRY DEMONSTRATION.





BUT AS THE MOB CLOSED IN, THE COVERED FIGURE
THREW BACK HIS COAT.

GOOD DAY, FOLKS! DECOY RUN
OVER! NOW IT'S UP TO
SPACEPORT SECURITY TO GET
SOME LAW BACK!

WONDER HOW
URSA'S DONE?



UNNOTICED BY THE CROWD, A TINY
FLOATER HAD SPED AWAY FROM THE
ASTERIOS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

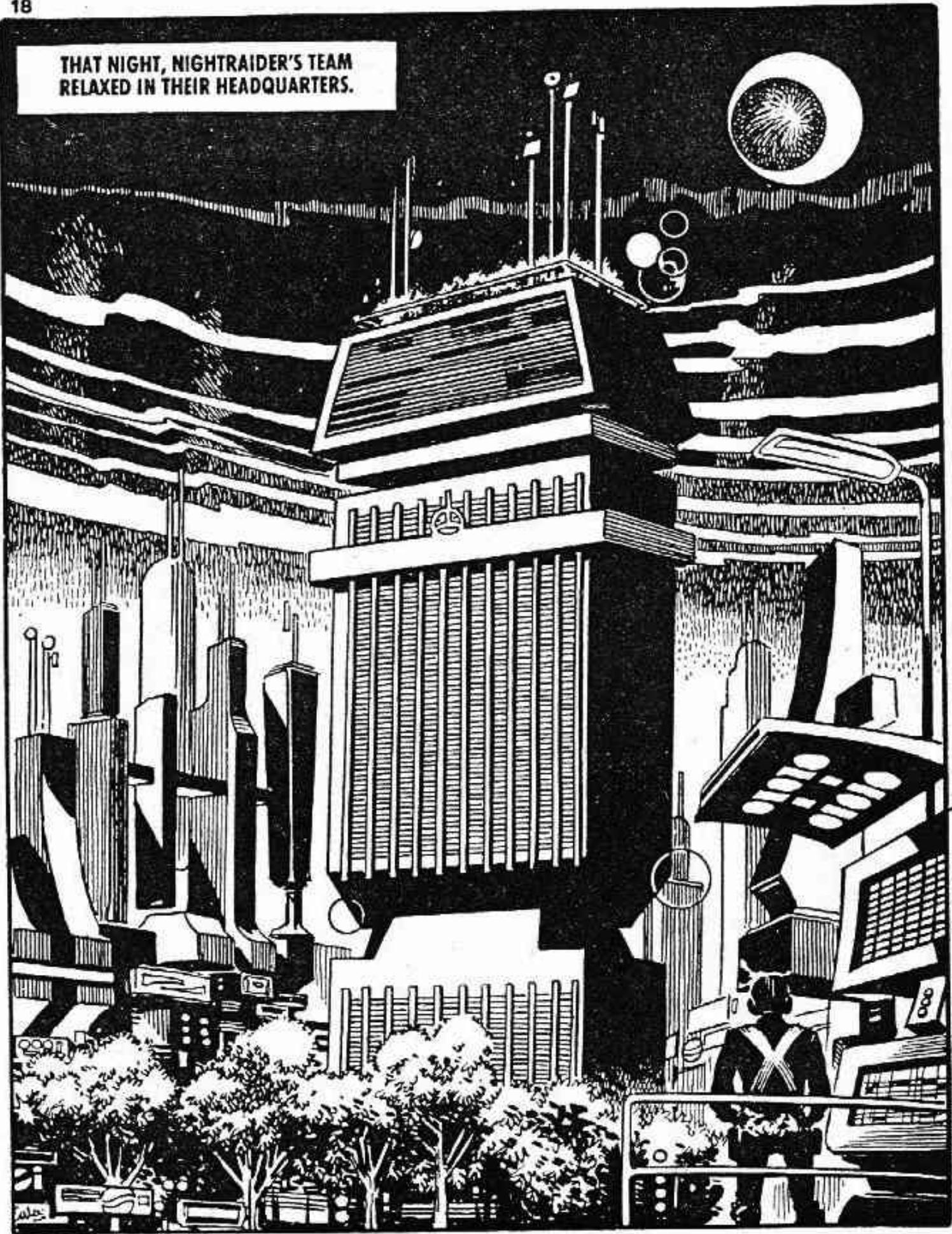
IT WAS A BRAVE THING YOUR
NIGHTRAIDER DID — JUST FOR
AN ANDROMORPH.

HE IS AN
HONORABLE MAN!





THAT NIGHT, NIGHTRAIDER'S TEAM
RELAXED IN THEIR HEADQUARTERS.



SO WE DESTROYED THE KRATOS DRUG DISTRIBUTION CENTRE. IF YOU CARE TO LOOK OUT OF THAT WINDOW YOU'LL SEE THE KRATOS STILL MAKING A FORTUNE EVERY MOMENT...! THEY CONTROL EVERYTHING!

CAN THE DOOM AND GLOOM, SAM. I'M GETTING SOMETHING THROUGH.

WITH ITS FASTER-THAN-LIGHT HYPERWAVE LINKS, THE INTERNEXION TRANSMITTER ALLOWED ALL LAW BASES INSTANT ACCESS TO INFORMATION STORED IN ALL THE COMPUTER SYSTEMS IN THE FEDERATION AND OUTREACHES. USING SOME OF CRIOS' INFORMATION, TYPHON BEGAN SEARCHING.

MADRE! IT LOOKS LIKE ANDROMORPHS ARE BACK IN FASHION AGAIN. THE KRATOS HAVE BUILT A FACTORY SHIP IN THE OUTREACHES — ON PYTHO, HYADES SYSTEM — AND THEY'RE BUSY BREEDING AN ARMY!

BOARD SHIP!
WE'RE GOING THERE!

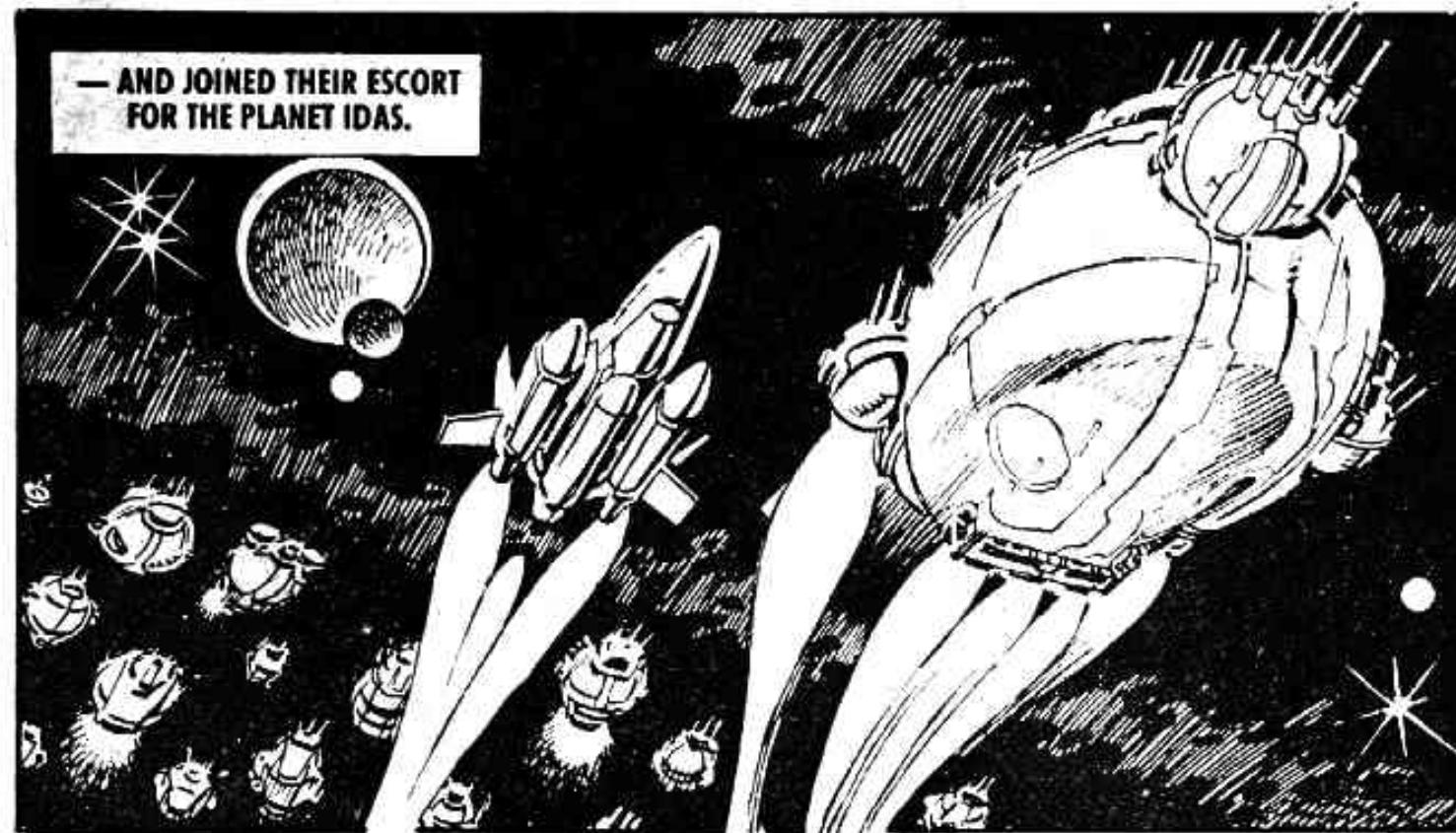
ON THAT VERY PLANET, AT THAT
VERY MOMENT ANDROMORPH
FORCES WERE BEING
LOADED INTO A
STARFRIGATE.



IF YOUR ARMY IS SUCCESSFUL
ON IDAS, CELAINO, IT SHOULD
WIPE OUT SOME OF THE
DISHONOUR BY YOUR BROTHER,
CRIOS.



ANDROMORPHS HAVE NO
BROTHERS, OVERLORD JORJE
— WE WERE SIMPLY BRED FROM
THE SAME CELL-MATRIX.



ON IDAS, THE FIFTH PLANET IN THE CENTAURI SYSTEM, WAR HAD RAGED FOR SEVERAL YEARS BETWEEN TWO CONTINENTS, GRENTERRA AND NEWREACH. THE DRUG ASTRAPENE WAS REFINED FROM THE IDAN WOLFSHEAD PLANT — GROWN ONLY IN GRENTERRA.



IF NEWREACH SHOULD WIN, THE KRATOS WOULD LOSE A BIG INVESTMENT. THE NEW ANDROMORPH ARMY WERE TO SEE THAT NEVER HAPPENED.



OUR FORCES HAVE ENGAGED
NEWREACHEAN LAND FORCES
OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL, JORJEO.

EXCELLENT! BY THE TIME THE REST OF
THE FLEET ARRIVE WITH CELAINO, IT'LL
ALL BE OVER!

REMORSELESSLY, THE SPECIALLY-BRED ANDROMORPHS
ENCIRCLED THE CAPITAL CITY AND BEGAN TO CLOSE IN.

IT'S HOPELESS! THERE ARE
TOO MANY OF THE THINGS!

ONCE THE DEFENDERS WERE CORRALLED INTO THE CITY, THE UNHUMAN ATTACKERS
BEGAN A FRIGHTENING CHANGE.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WHAT'S THAT GLOW?

UP IN ORBIT, CELAINO'S SHIP JOINED THE STARFRIGATE.

SORRY WE'RE LATE — WE HAD A
LITTLE TROUBLE WITH A
SQUADRON OF CENTAURI
DEFENCE-SHIPS.

JUST IN TIME, CELAINO! YOUR
FIRST BATCH IS ABOUT TO GO
INTO ACTION.

EXCELLENT! THE
IDAN WOLFSHEAD
CROP IS OURS — THE
KRATOS WILL BECOME
THE RICHEST
ORGANISATION IN THE
GALAXY!

AN EXCELLENT IDEA, CELAINO. EACH
ANDROMORPH ACTING AS PART OF A REACTION
CHAIN. LINK THEM UP, AND YOU HAVE THE
BIGGEST TRANSNUCLEAR EXPLOSION THIS
SIDE OF ALPHA CENTAURI!

NEW BATCH OF RADIATION-PROOF
ANDROMORPHS READY TO LAND.

MEANWHILE, THE ASTERIOS NEARED ITS DESTINATION.

COMING OUT OF HYPERDRIVE, SIR.
PYTHO AHEAD, TWO THOUSAND KLICKS.

WHAT DOES THE SENSORCOMM
READ, TYPHON?

IT DOESN'T! THE WHOLE MUD-BALL
SEEMS TO BE DESERTED.

RIGHT! YOU, SAMURO AND I
WILL GO DOWN IN THE
SHUTTLE. URSA CAN LOOK
AFTER THINGS UP HERE.

THE THREE MEN BOARDED THE SHUTTLE AND DROPPED TO PYTHO'S BARREN SURFACE.



LEAVING THE SHUTTLE, THEY WARILY CROSSED THE DESERT.



NO SOONER HAD GARRY SPOKEN —

JUPE! REJECTED ANDROMORPHS
LEFT BEHIND TO DISCOURAGE
SNOOPERS.



SAMURO ACTIVATED HIS BIO-ACCELERATOR CIRCUIT,
INCREASING HIS REACTION TIME A HUNDREDFOLD.





SOMETHING OUT OF A NIGHTMARE CRAWLED TOWARDS THEM.



EVEN SAMURO'S AMPLIFIED REFLEXES
WERE NO MATCH FOR THE LURCHING
HORROR.



GARRY RAISED HIS LEFT ARM —

I'VE NO CHOICE, I SUPPOSE. IT HAD
TO HAPPEN ONE DAY. I'LL HAVE TO
USE MY NEUTRON BEAMER.

THE DEADLY NEUTRON BEAM STRUCK THE CREATURE, KILLING IT INSTANTLY.

AAAAAA . . . AAARGH!
SUCCESS — BUT AT WHAT PRICE?



UNKNOWN TO THE OTHERS, EVERY TIME HE FIRED
THE NEUTRON BEAMER, DEADLY RAYS OF Q-RADIATION
SWEPT THROUGH HIS BODY SERIOUSLY DAMAGING HIS INTERNAL ORGANS.

SILENTLY, GARRY CRUMPLED TO THE DUST, AS THE OTHERS FOUGHT THE ANDROMORPHS.

YOU DID IT, CHIEF!
THE THING'S DEAD!

TYPHON! SOMETHING'S WRONG
WITH THE NIGHTRAIDER!



HOLDING THE ENRAGED MONSTERS OFF, THEY CARRIED THEIR SEMI-CONSCIOUS LEADER BACK TO SAFETY —

PHOENIX... RE-JUV
CHAMBER...

USE MY BLASTER TO HOLD THEM OFF,
TYPHON. I CAN CARRY HIS HONOUR TO
THE SHUTTLE WHILST MY AMPLIFICATION
CIRCUITS ARE STILL ON.



URSA! SOMETHING'S HAPPENED TO THE CHIEF AND WE'RE LIFTING OFF. ONCE WE'RE CLEAR, HIT THE PLANET WITH PHOTON MINES — FULL STERILISATION PATTERN!

RIGHT, TYPHON.

THE PHOTON MINES DETONATED JUST ABOVE PYTHO'S SURFACE, DESTROYING THE LAST SURVIVING ANDROMORPHS.

URSA — PREPARE SICKBAY, THE LORD JUSTICE IS IN A BAD WAY!

ONCE NIGHTRAIDER WAS INSTALLED IN THE SICKBAY, THE ASTERIOS LEFT ORBIT AND STREAKED BACK TOWARDS EARTH.

PHOENIX... RE-JUV... GET... TO PHOENIX...

WHO'S PHOENIX?
OR WHERE?

IT'S HIS PRIVATE HOME — A GIANT SATELLITE ORBITING EARTH. HE MUST WANT TO GO THERE.

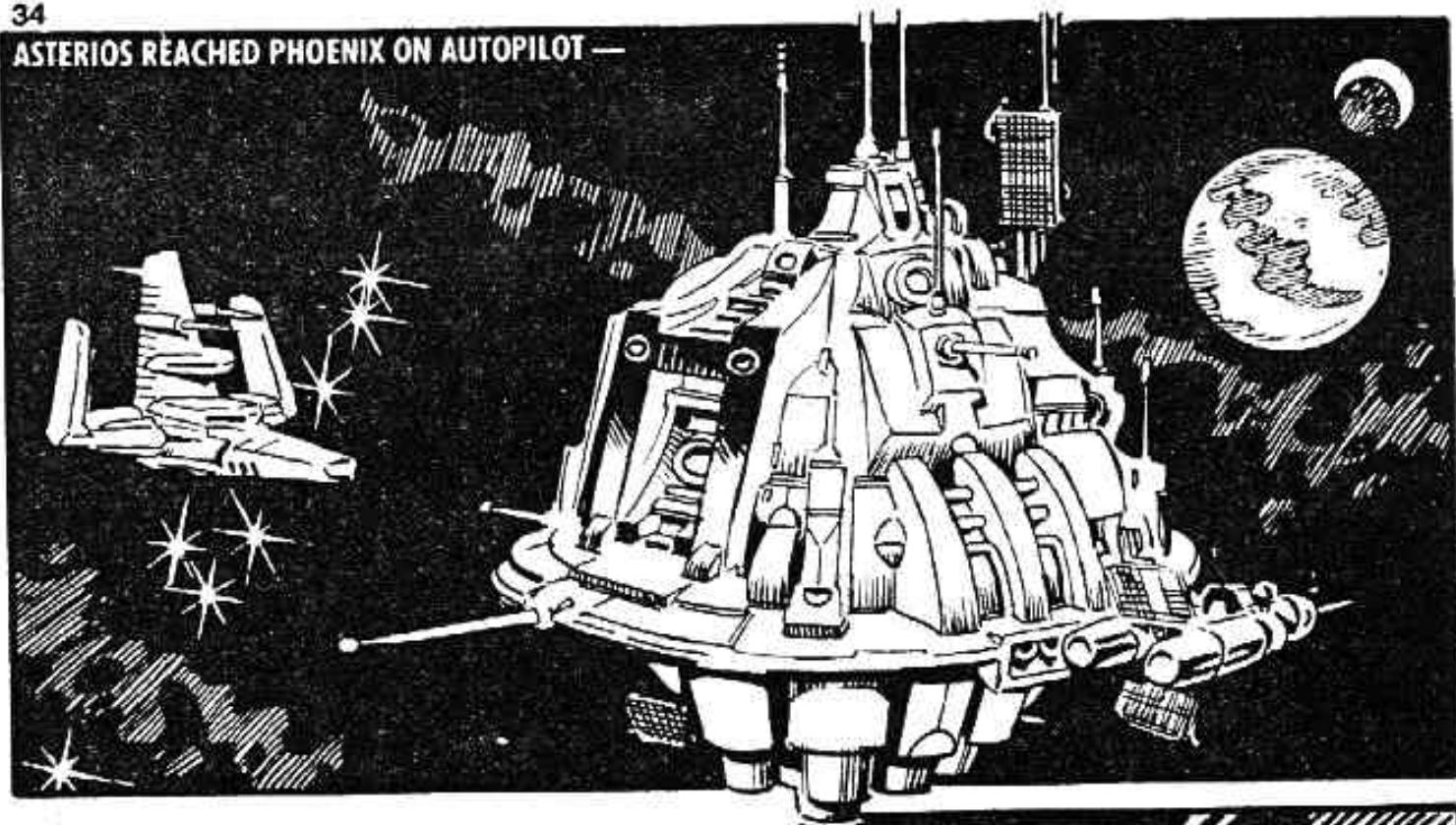


ABOUT THE RADIATION FROM MY
NEUTRON BEAMER THROUGH MY
BODY? WHY BOTHER, NOTHING CAN
BE DONE ABOUT IT!

THEN WHY USE THE
NEUTRON BEAMER?

BECAUSE IT IS EFFECTIVE! BECAUSE IT IS A
VITAL WEAPON IN THE FIGHT AGAINST EVIL!

ASTERIOS REACHED PHOENIX ON AUTOPilot —



AS QUICKLY AS THEY COULD, THE AGENTS GOT HIM TO THE RE-JUV CHAMBER —



YOU THINK SO? THIS IS OUR
STRONG, SILENT CHIEF'S
PERSONAL DIARY. HE'LL LAST A
STANDARD YEAR IF HE DOES
NOTHING MORE, BUT IF HE USES
THAT NEUTRON WEAPON AGAIN,
HE'LL BE DEAD WITHIN THREE
WEEKS!



THE STARSHIP DROPPED INTO NORMAL SPACE — AND TROUBLE.



OH, NO! YOUR NAVIGATION'S
TOO GOOD, URSA!

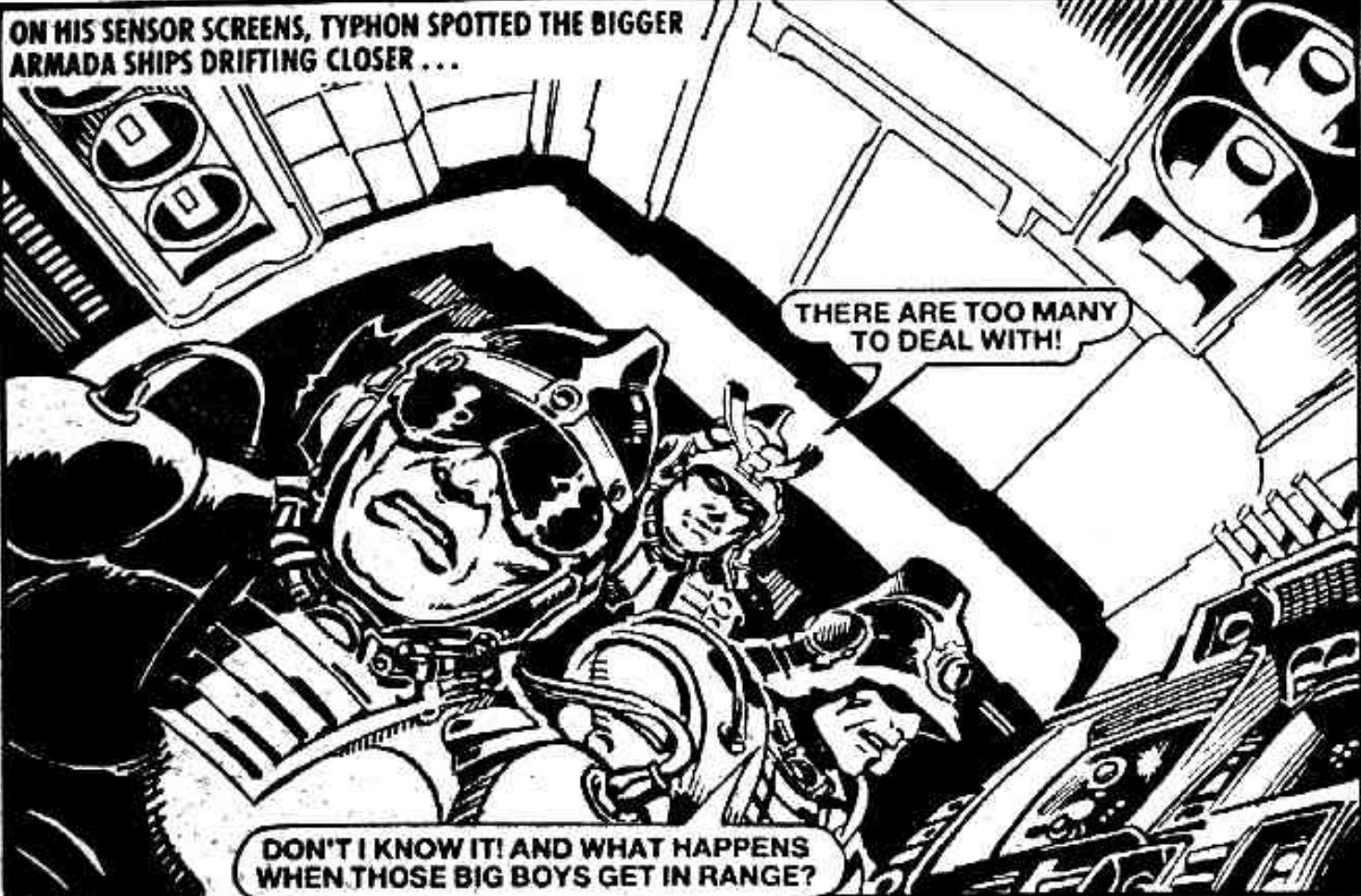
INTRUDER ALERT! STANDING ORDER
28 — DISABLE BUT DO NOT DESTROY.

THE ASTERIOS WAS INSTANTLY SURROUNDED BY WELL-ARMED INTERCEPTORS.



I NEVER KNEW THE KRATOS
HAD SO MANY SHIPS!

ON HIS SENSOR SCREENS, TYPHON SPOTTED THE BIGGER
ARMADA SHIPS DRIFTING CLOSER . . .



THERE ARE TOO MANY
TO DEAL WITH!

DON'T I KNOW IT! AND WHAT HAPPENS
WHEN THOSE BIG BOYS GET IN RANGE?

HE SOON HAD AN ANSWER TO
HIS QUESTION.

INTRUDER — I SUGGEST YOU
HEAVE TO AND SURRENDER.



DO WE HAVE
A CHOICE?

THEY WERE ESCORTED TO THE FACTORY SHIP AND IN ITS VAST HOLD, THEY DISEMBARKED.



THEN PERHAPS YOU'D CARE TO WAIT IN MY CONSULTING ROOMS? GUARDS — TAKE THEM AWAY!

I'LL RETURN TO MY FLAGSHIP NOW, CELAINO. AND I THINK IT WILL BE SAFER IF YOU AND A SMALL ESCORT FLEET LEFT FOR INTERSTELLAR SPACE, FOR THE TIME BEING.

THE THREE AGENTS LOCKED AWAY INSIDE, THE ANDROMORPH FACTORY SHIP LEFT ORBIT AND MADE TOWARDS DEEP SPACE.

BACK AT PHOENIX, NIGHTRAIDER'S REPAIRS WERE ALMOST FINISHED — WHEN AN UNANNOUNCED VISITOR ARRIVED.



NIGHTRAIDER AND CRIOS BOARDED A CRAFT.

I MUST GO AFTER THEM, BUT I
CANNOT ASK YOU TO COME.

THEN DON'T ASK! I WAS BRED FOR COMPUTER
WORK, AND MY NON-HUMAN BRAIN CAN COPE
WITH THE NEUROWEB FOR A WHILE WITHOUT
GOING INSANE. NOW TELL ME, HOW ARE WE
GOING TO FIND SAMURO, TYPHON AND URSA IN
THIS BIG GALAXY?

ALL OPERATIVES HAVE TRACERS
BUILT INTO THEIR TEETH, WITH A
RANGE OF TEN LIGHT-YEARS. I'LL
PATCH THE SIGNAL THROUGH
INTO THE WEB. AS LONG AS
THEY'RE NOT IN HYPERSPACE,
WE'LL FIND THEM.

I HAVE THEM! VECTOR 29.3
BY 40. AZIMUTH 38.

GARRY QUICKLY PLOTTED THE
CO-ORDINATES INTO THE COMPUTER, AND
THE HYPERION WARPED INTO HYPERSPACE.

AFTER A BRIEF FLIGHT IN HYPERSPACE.

SPOT ON! WELL DONE, CRIOS!

I THINK WE'VE BEEN NOTICED.

KEEP HER STEADY AS YOU CAN. THE MAIN WEAPON ON HYPERION IS A PHASER PULSE. ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH IT?

I KNOW THE THEORY! AN ENERGY PULSE THAT AGITATES MOLECULES, LIKE A MICROWAVE COOKER.

NIGHTRAIDER FIRED AT THE ONCOMING STARFRIGATE.

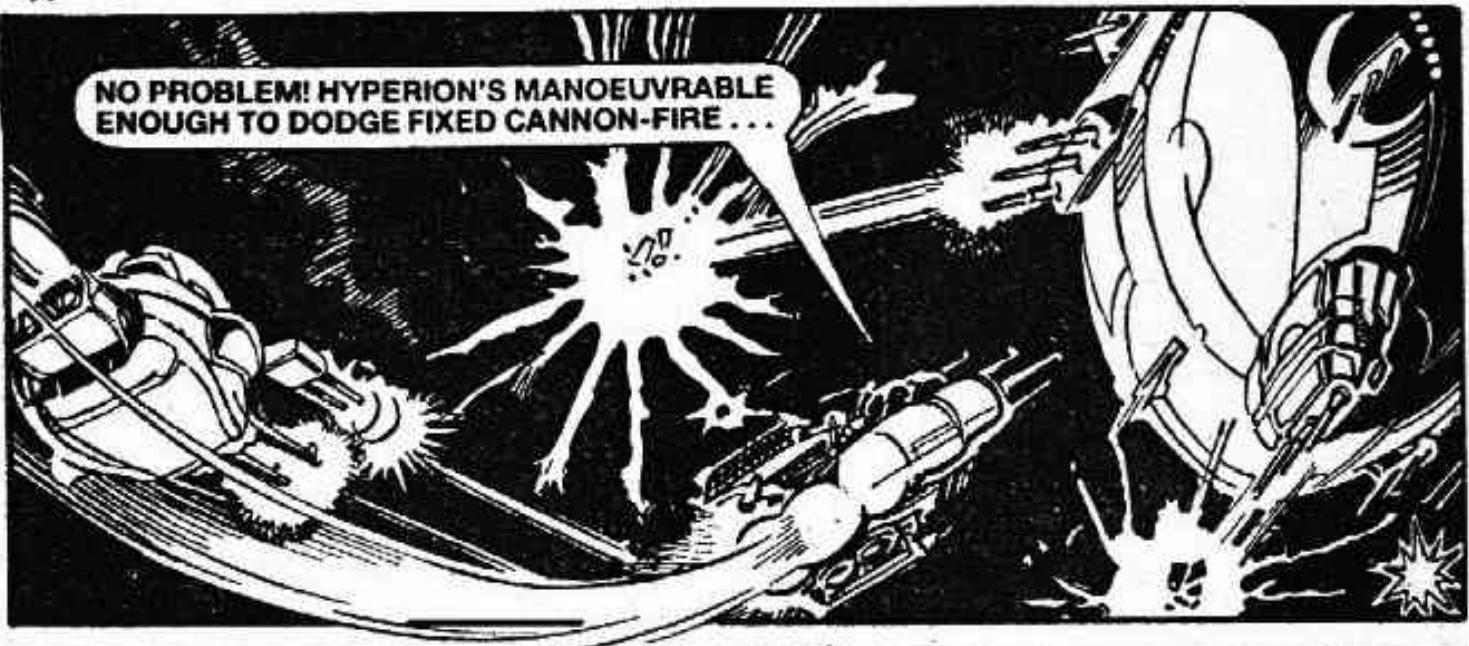
THE HYPERION SWOOPED TOWARDS THE KRATOS VESSEL.

MAKE FOR THE FACTORY SHIP! THE LAST FRIGATE WILL NOT SHOOT FOR FEAR OF HITTING IT!

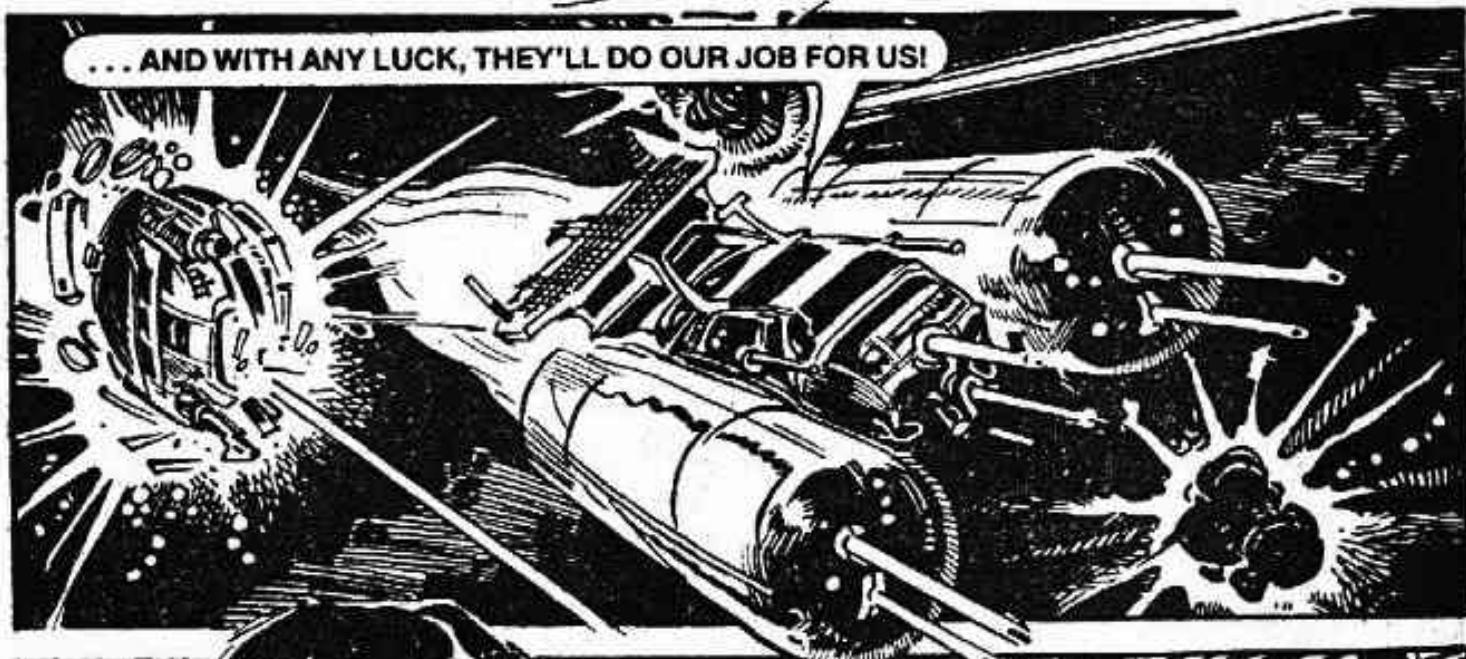
WELL, THE THEORY SEEMS TO WORK, CRIOS!

MAYBE SO, BUT I DON'T THINK THE FACTORY SHIP HAS ANY SUCH QUALEMS!

NO PROBLEM! HYPERION'S MANOEUVRABLE ENOUGH TO DODGE FIXED CANNON-FIRE ...



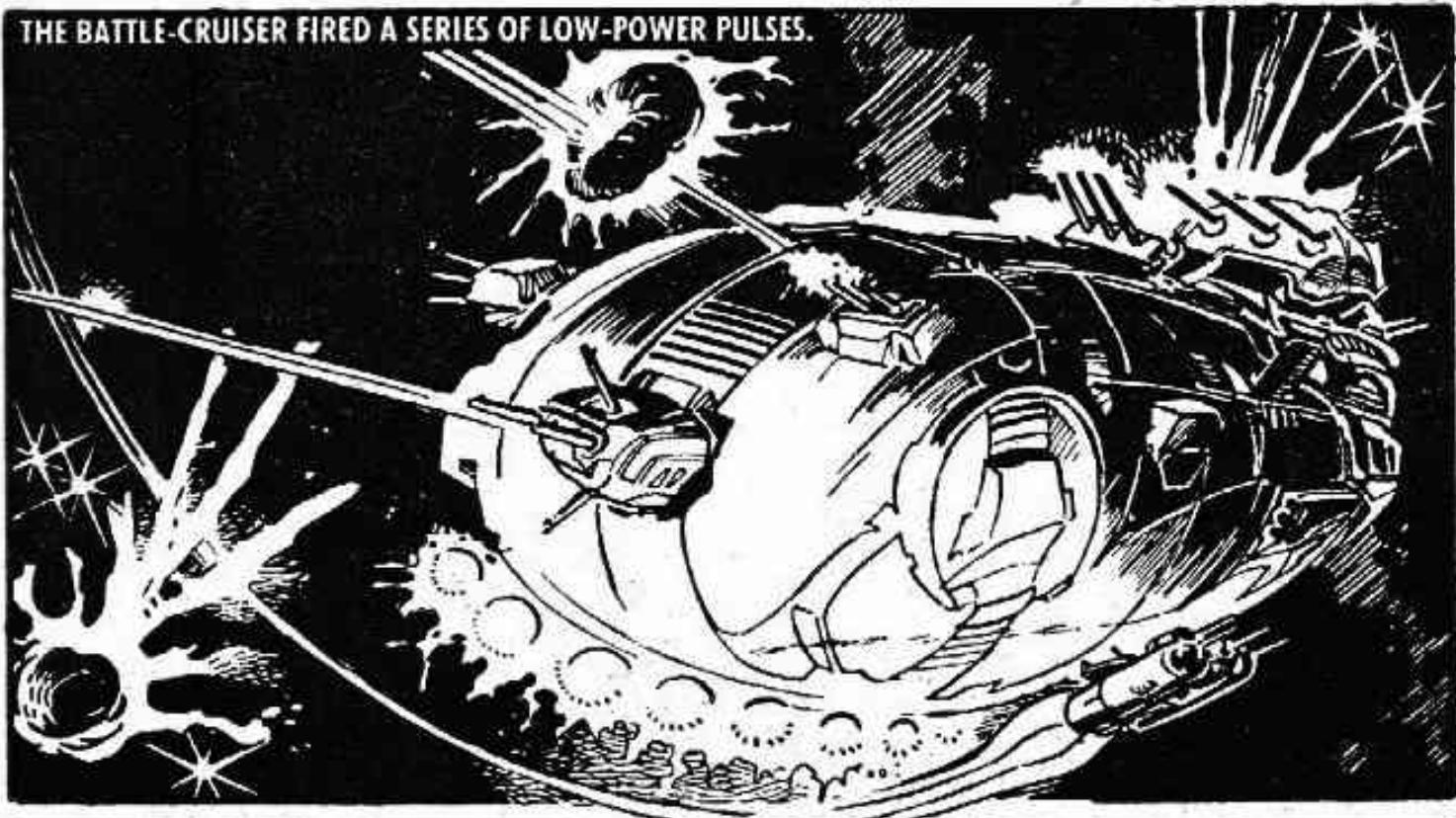
... AND WITH ANY LUCK, THEY'LL DO OUR JOB FOR US!



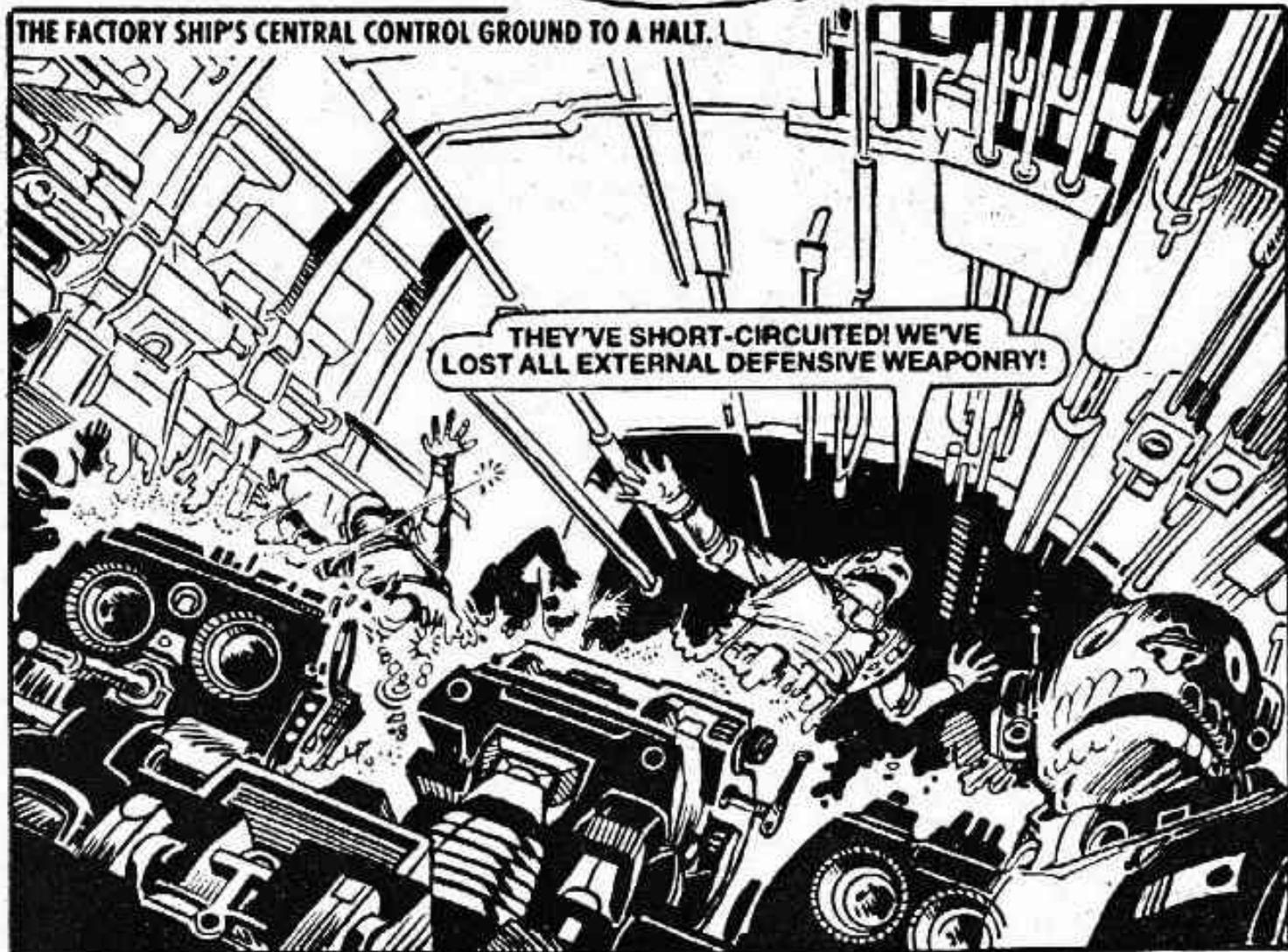
NOW, IF I FIRE A WIDE-DISPERSAL PULSE, IT SHOULD OVERLOAD THEIR WEAPONS CONTROLS LONG ENOUGH TO LET US IN.



THE BATTLE-CRUISER FIRED A SERIES OF LOW-POWER PULSES.



THE FACTORY SHIP'S CENTRAL CONTROL GROUND TO A HALT.



THE HYPERION CRUISED INTO THE HANGAR.

LOOK — THE ASTERIOS! NOW ALL
WE'VE GOT TO DO IS FIND THE OTHERS.





THE CELL DOOR WAS SUDDENLY BLASTED ASIDE.

CHIEF! AND CRIOS! I NEVER
THOUGHT I'D SEE YOUR FUNNY FACE
AGAIN!

THANKS FOR NOTHING! NOW
GRAB ONE OF THESE DISRUPTORS.

THOUGHT YOU MIGHT
HAVE MISSED THESE.

CHIEF! BEHIND YOU!

REFLEXIVELY, NIGHTRAIDER SPUN ABOUT AND FIRED THE NEUTRON BEAM FROM HIS ARM WITHOUT THINKING.



THE Q-RADIATION FILLED HIS BODY AGAIN, AND NIGHTRAIDER BEGAN TO SINK INTO A COMA.

SAMURO ... GET THEM OUT ... OF HERE ...

WE'RE GOING NOWHERE YET, CHIEF!
NOW WHERE'D CRIOS DISAPPEAR TO?

THE ANDROMORPH APPEARED MOMENTS LATER.

LOOK WHAT I FOUND LURKING
IN THE WOODWORK!

NOW LISTEN, CELAINO — NIGHTRAIDER IS DYING
FROM Q-RADIATION POISONING. YOU'RE GOING TO
ANDROMORPHISE HIM, MAKE HIM IMMUNE.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

YOU'RE MAD!

WE MAY HAVE THE SAME CELLULAR
MATRIX, 'BROTHER', BUT IF YOU
THINK THAT'S GOING TO STOP ME
TAKING YOU APART PIECE BY
PIECE, THINK AGAIN!

CELAINO AGREED —

WHEN HE COMES OUT OF THE
ANDROMORPHOSIS TANK, HE WILL BE WHOLE
AGAIN.

NO TRICKS, CELAINO.

QUICKLY, CELAINO PROGRAMMED THE MACHINE —

I AM NOW BREAKING HIS BODY DOWN
INTO CELLULAR UNITS, IMMUNITY TO Q-
RADIATION WILL BE PROGRAMMED IN,
AND THEN HIS BODY WILL BE REBUILT.

FOR YOUR SAKE, I HOPE SO. I
SHALL STAY TO MAKE SURE!

THE THREE AGENTS BOARDED HYPERION AND SET COURSE BACK TO IDAS.



A SHORT TIME LATER, ABOARD THE KRATOS FLAGSHIP.





IT'S ARMED WITH A PHASER WEAPON!
EVEN A TOUCH CAN DISABLE A FRIGATE!

IT'S THAT LAW SQUAD. DO THEY
NEVER GIVE UP?



THE HYPERION STREAKED THROUGH
THE KRATOS FLEET —

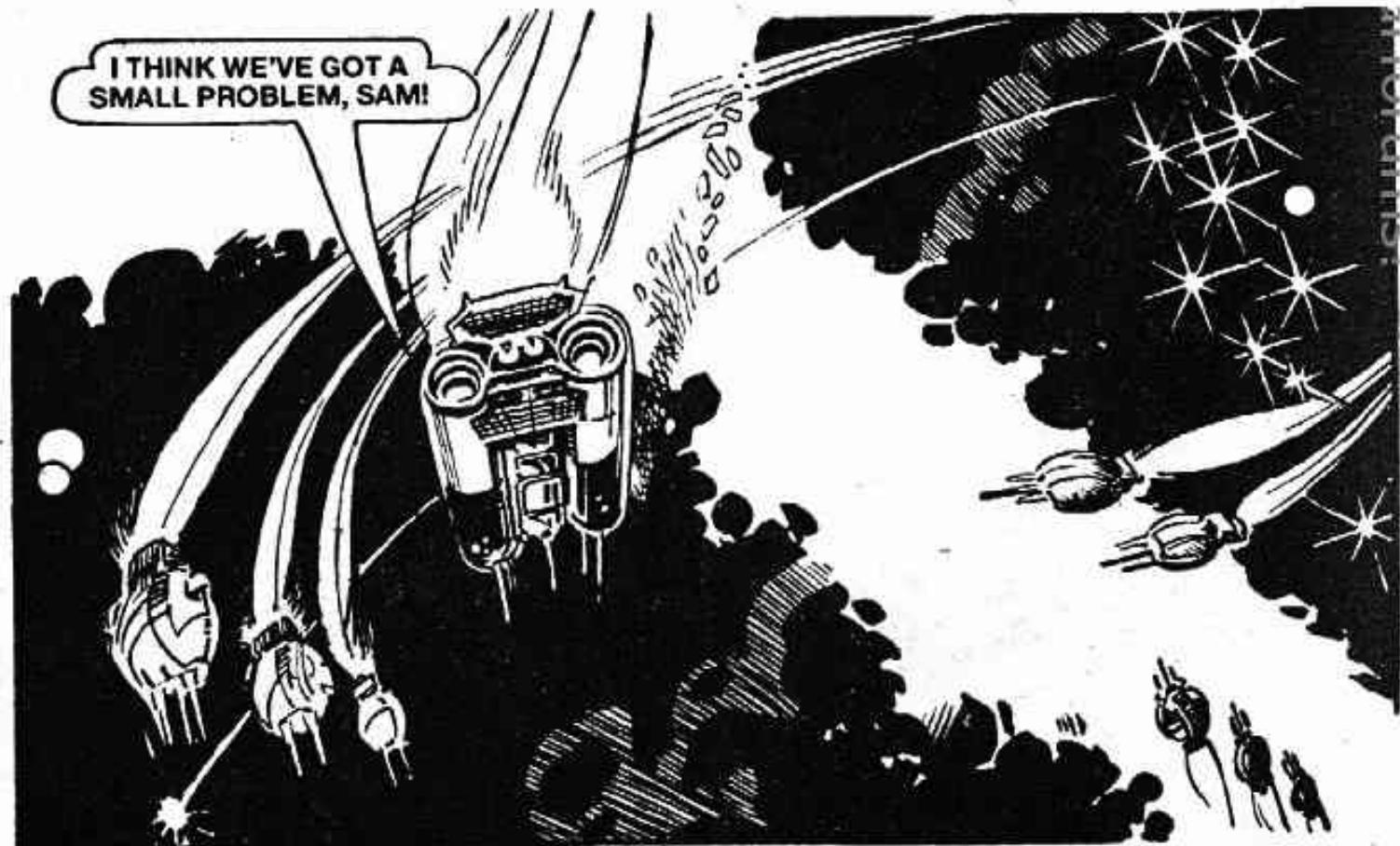
OUR DEFLECTOR SHIELDS ARE
COPING WITH THEIR FIRE SO FAR.

WE'RE HOME
FREE, SAM!



BUT A CONCENTRATED BROADSIDE
SUDDENLY BREACHED THE CRUISER'S
SHIELDS.

SAM! URSA!
WE'RE HIT!



BACK ON BOARD THE FACTORY SHIP, CRIOS WAS LOST IN THOUGHT.

WILL THIS SAVE THE NIGHTRAIDER? AND I
WONDER IF HE REALISES WHAT HE'S LETTING
HIMSELF IN FOR?



CRIOS FAILED TO HEAR THE FAINT CHINK OF METAL BEHIND HIM.



CELAINO KILLED HIS 'BROTHER' WITH THE NEUTRON-BEAMER —

ALWAYS THE DREAMER, CRIOS?
WELL — DREAM FOREVER!



NOW CELAINO FAILED TO NOTICE SOMETHING ...
THE ANDROMORPHOSIS TANK HAD SHUT OFF.

I SHOULD THANK YOU 'BROTHER'.
I'M FREE OF JORJEO'S LITTLE
PLANS NOW — I CAN BEGIN MY
OWN EMPIRE OF ANDROMORPHS!



NO!

WELCOME BACK TO LIFE — PITY
YOU WON'T ENJOY IT LONG!

FOR THE MURDER OF CRIOS, WHO I
NOW RECATEGORISE AS HUMAN — I
SENTENCE YOU TO DEATH!

STRANGE ENERGY SHOT OUT FROM THE NEW LEFT ARM

A DEADLY BLAST OF ENERGY FILLED THE
CHAMBER, KILLING CELAINO INSTANTLY.

DIE!

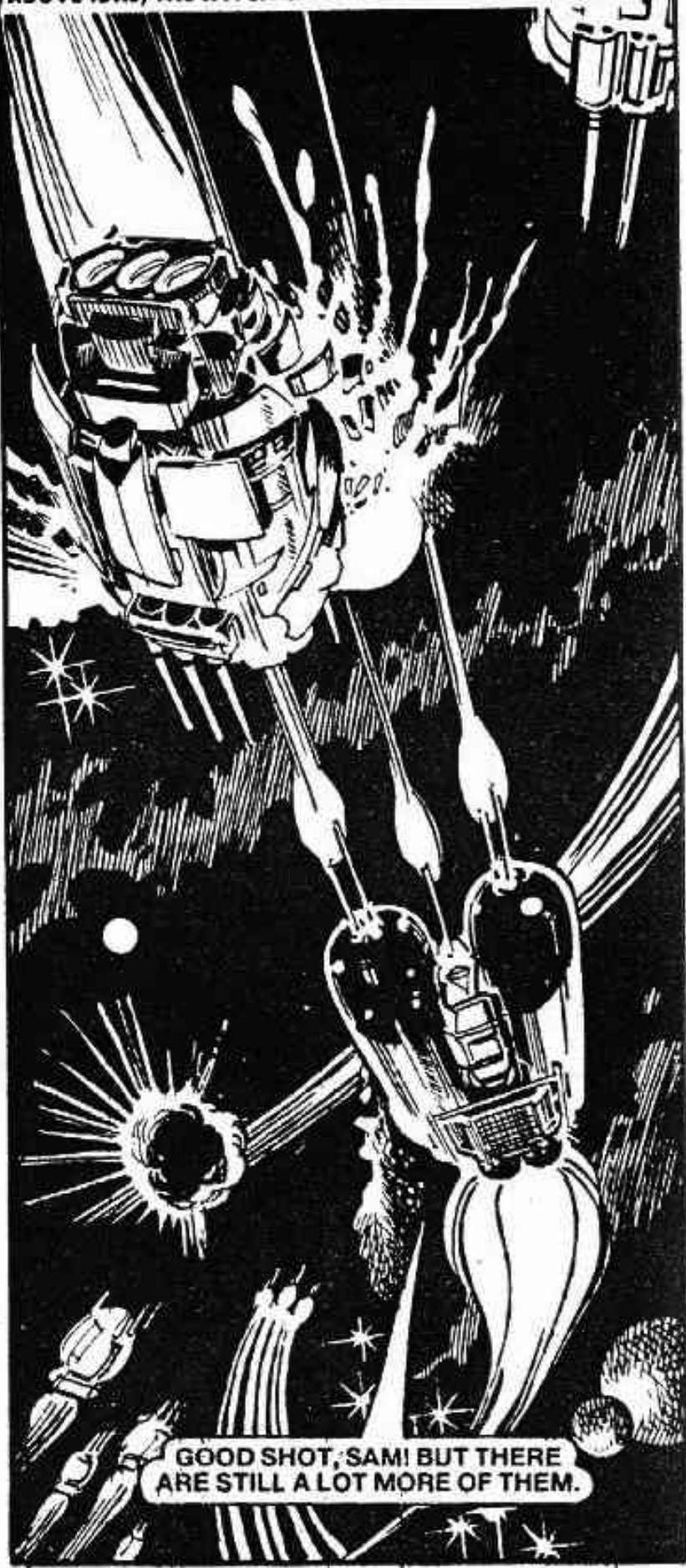
YOU FOOL! YOU'VE OVERLOADED
THE FUSION REACTOR! YOU'LL
KILL US BOTH!

YOU FORGET — I'M NOW
IMMUNE TO Q-RADIATION!

FINDING HIS SPACE SUIT, HE HURRIED TO THE FACTORY SHIP'S CONTROL CENTRE.



ABOVE IDAS, THE HYPERION WAS STRUGGLING BRAVELY.



HOLD ON, URSA! HOW CAN HE DO IT,
SAM? ENDURE ALL THIS AND STILL
PILOT THE SHIP?

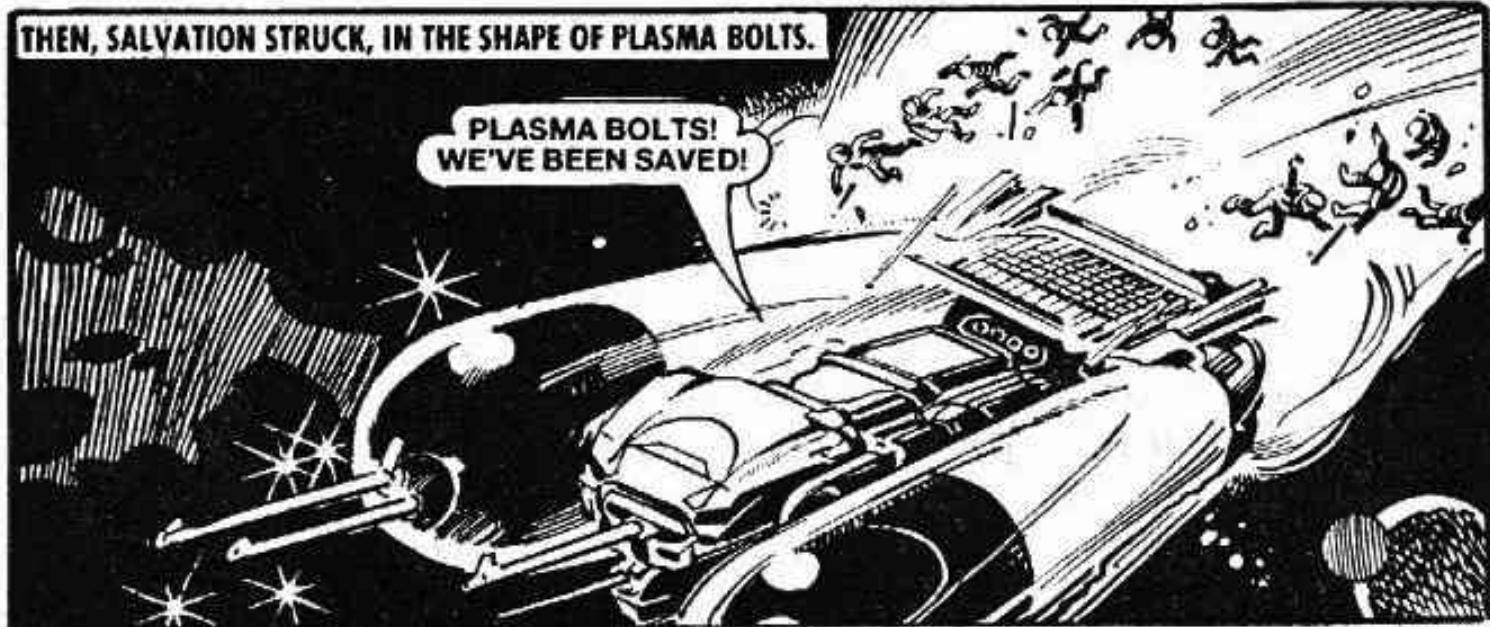
IT'S CALLED COURAGE, TYPHON. NOW
GET ON YOUR SENSORCOMM — THEY'RE
THROWING SOMETHING ELSE AT US!

ANDROMORPHS BRED TO LIVE IN VACUUM LANDED ON
THE HULL AND BEGAN TO DESTROY THE EXTERNAL
SENSORY EQUIPMENT, LEAVING HYPERION BLIND AND
SENSELESS.



THEN, SALVATION STRUCK, IN THE SHAPE OF PLASMA BOLTS.

PLASMA BOLTS!
WE'VE BEEN SAVED!



ATTENTION, HYPERION! GET IN
BEHIND ME — I'M GOING AFTER THE TOP MAN!

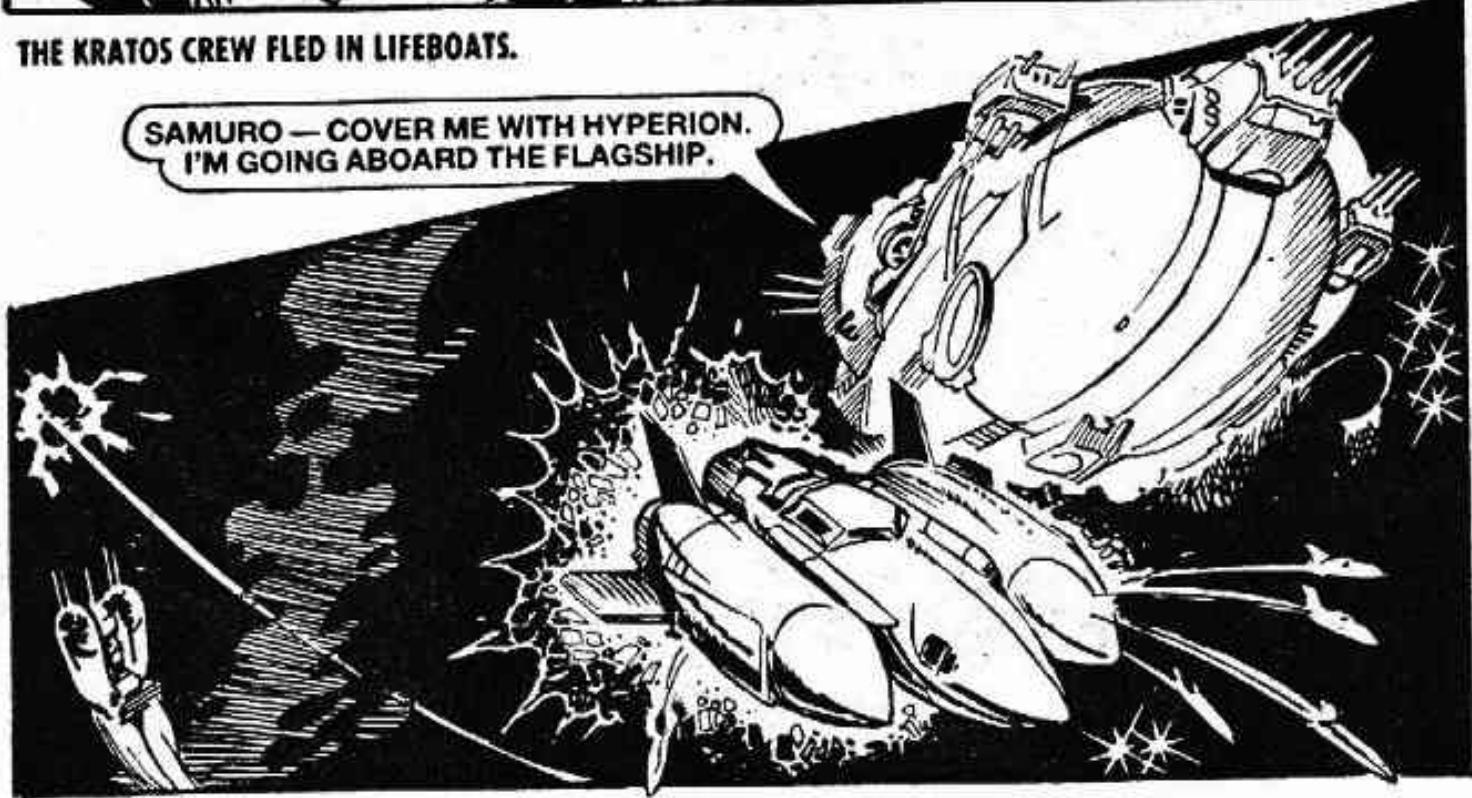
IT'S NIGHTRAIDER!

THE FLAGSHIP WAS SOON REACHED AND ATTACKED.

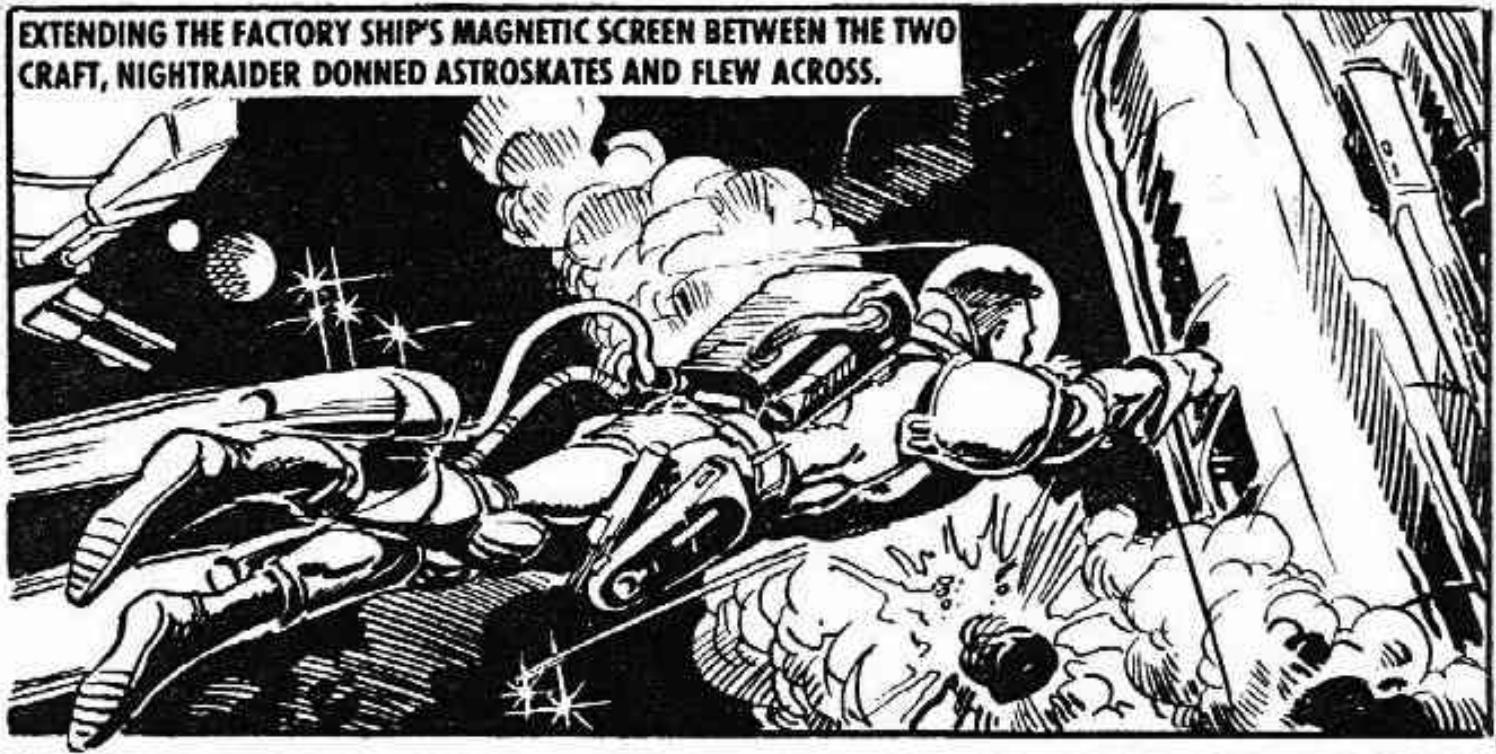
GIVE UP, JORJE! I'LL STOP YOU
ANY WAY I CAN!



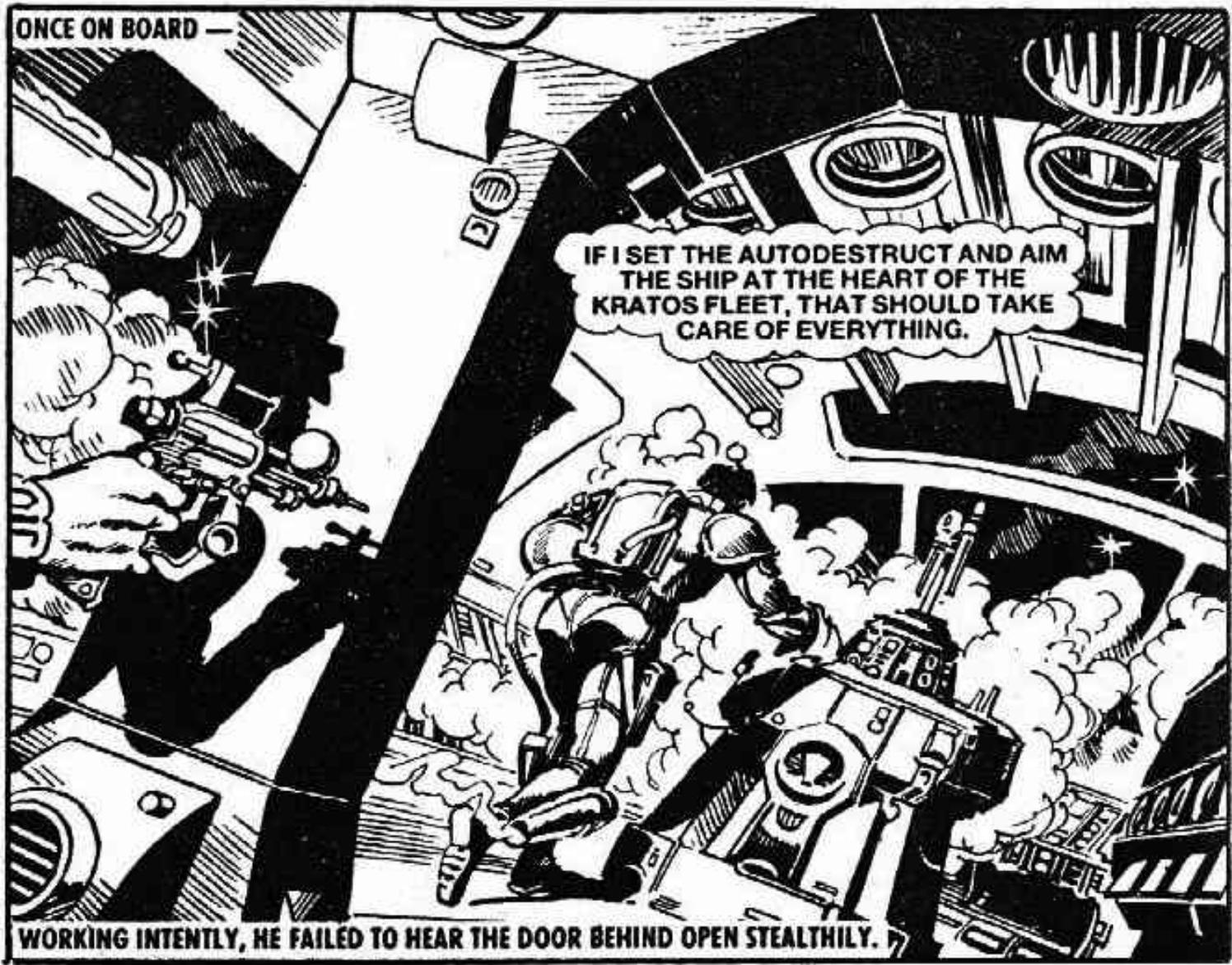
THE KRATOS CREW FLED IN LIFEBOATS.



EXTENDING THE FACTORY SHIP'S MAGNETIC SCREEN BETWEEN THE TWO CRAFT, NIGHTRAIDER DONNED ASTROSKATES AND FLEW ACROSS.



ONCE ON BOARD —



IF I SET THE AUTODESTRUCT AND AIM THE SHIP AT THE HEART OF THE KRATOS FLEET, THAT SHOULD TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.

WORKING INTENTLY, HE FAILED TO HEAR THE DOOR BEHIND OPEN STEALTHILY.



JORJEO WAS ALSO AN ANDROMORPH —

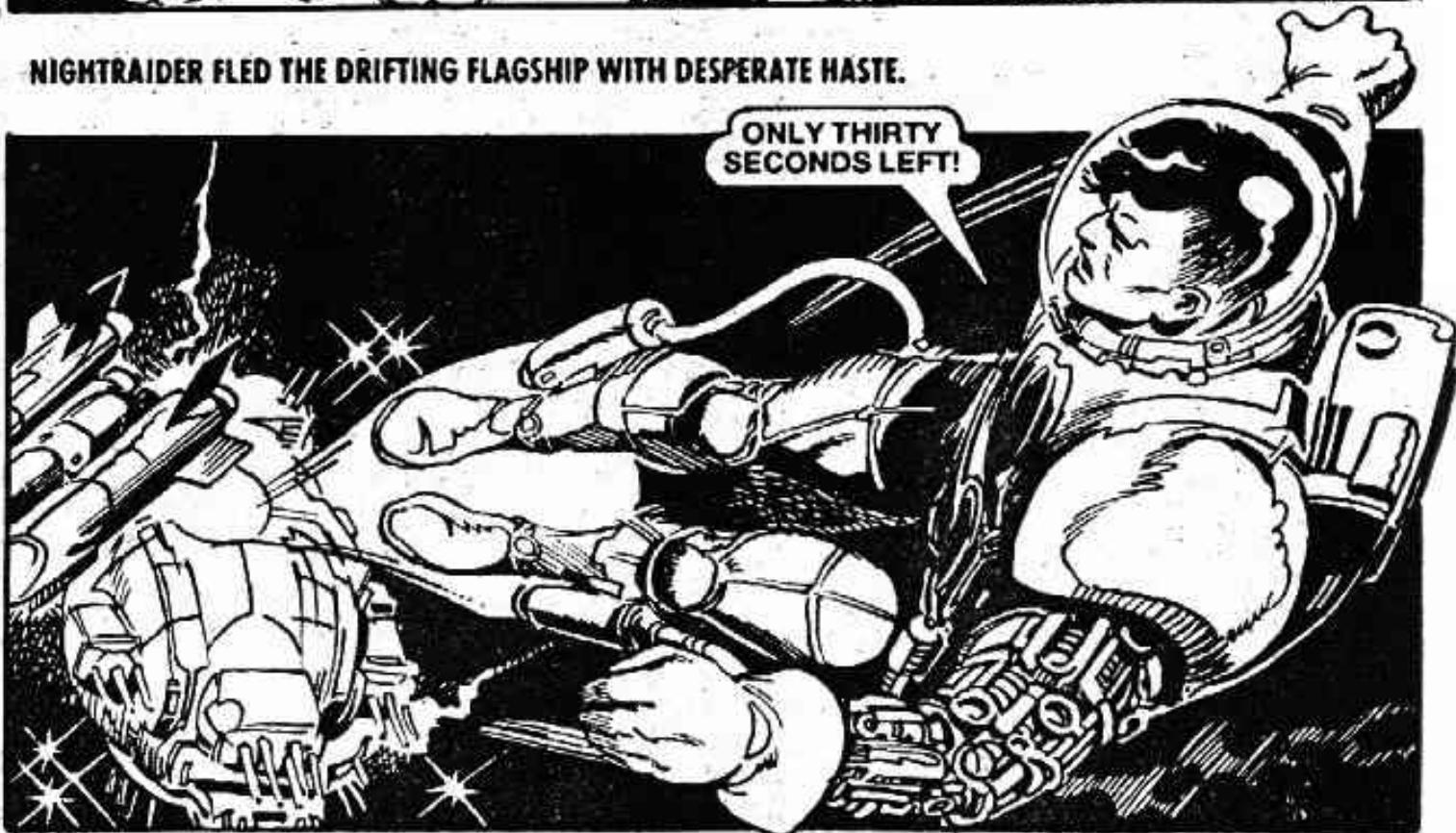
BUT BEFORE THE GUN FIRED, NIGHTRAIDER
WAS ALREADY MOVING.



JORJEO'S BOLT IGNITED GAS CYLINDERS, AND HURLED DEADLY SHRAPNEL AROUND THE CONTROL ROOM.



NIGHTRAIDER FLED THE DRIFTING FLAGSHIP WITH DESPERATE HASTE.



WITH A BLINDING FLASH, THE FLAGSHIP DETONATED. IN ONE INSTANT OF TIME, NEARLY THE ENTIRE KRATOS FLEET BECAME INTERSTELLAR DUST.



A SHORT WHILE LATER, NIGHTRAIDER CONTACTED THE HYPERION.

I'VE ALREADY CALLED THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR A CLEAN-UP SQUAD. IDAS WILL SOON BE CLEAR OF THE KRATOS ANDROMORPHS. WAIT HERE FOR THEM — IT'S TIME FOR ME TO GO. MY NEW BODY SUPPLIES ME WITH POWER TO TRAVEL SPACE WITHOUT THE NEED FOR A SPACECRAFT!



DON'T ARGUE, TYPHON. YOU KNOW I CAN NO LONGER RETURN TO EARTH. I AM NOW AN ANDROMORPH — I SHALL BE DECLASSIFIED. SPACE IS MY HOME, EARTH IS YOURS. GO BACK, AND LOOK AFTER IT.

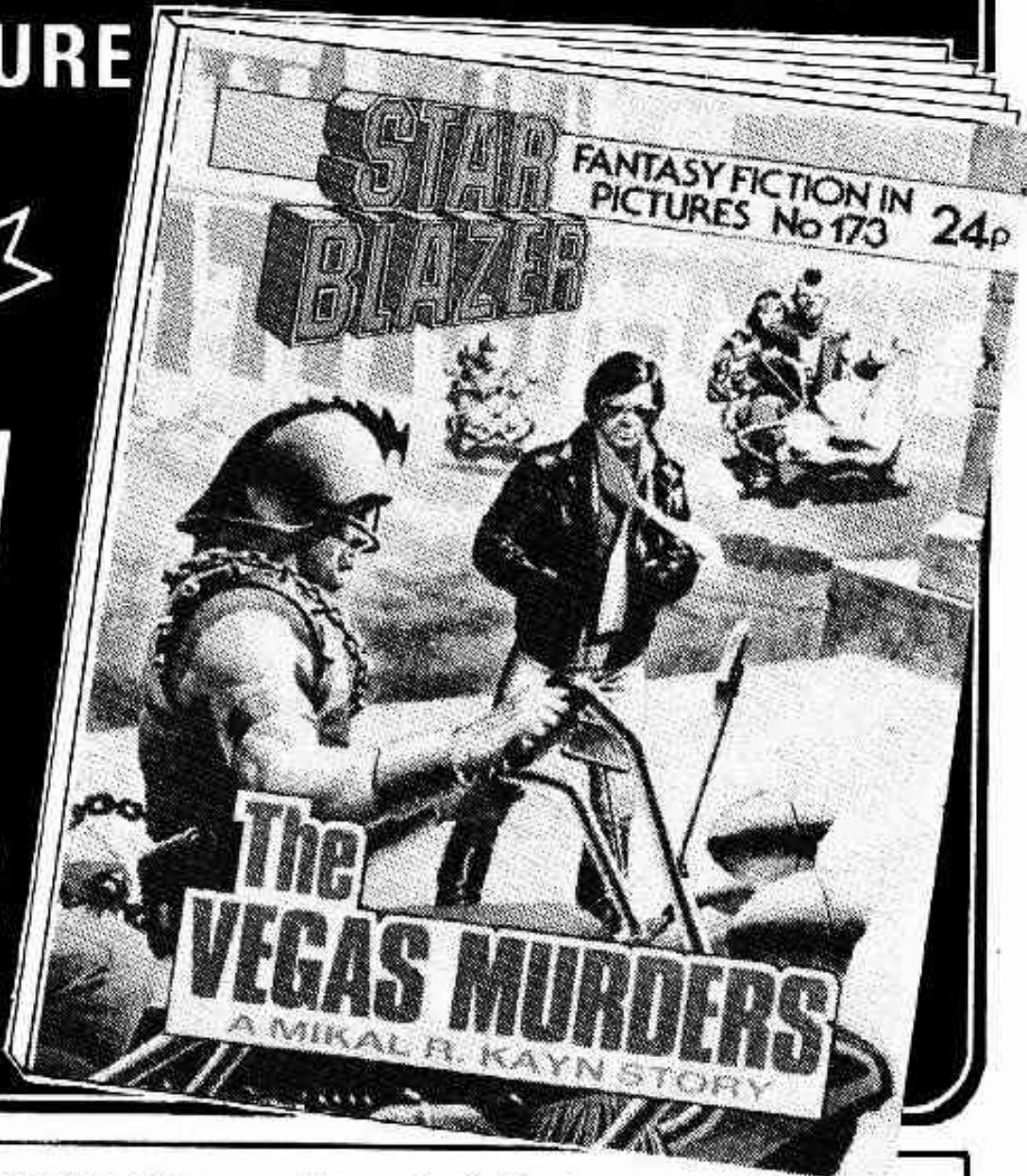


NIGHTRAIDER, ANDROMORPH, VANISHED AMONGST THE STARS, UNABLE TO RETURN TO THE EARTH HE HAD SAVED, BUT ALWAYS READY TO PROTECT IT.

DON'T MISS THIS MONTH'S
OTHER ACTION-PACKED
ADVENTURE



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FAVOURITE STORY

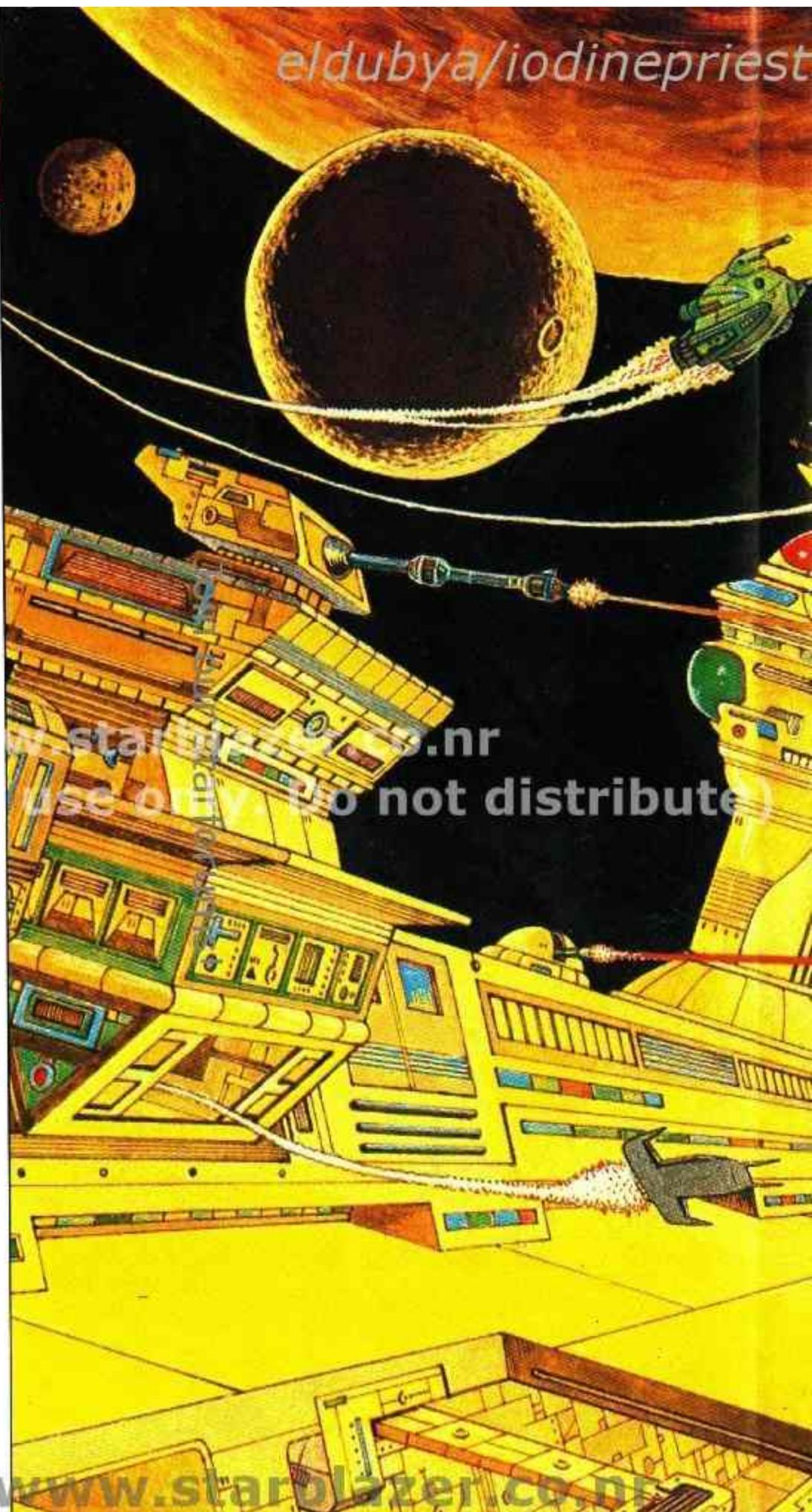
FAVOURITE CHARACTER

COMMENTS

NIGHTRAIDER

**They made the Mafia
look like a charity
organisation.
He was the only
person who could
stop them.
They had unlimited
credits, men and
machines.
He had one craft and
three helpers.
They were the
Kratos . . .
he was Nightraider.**

eldubya/iodinepriest



<http://www.starwarsnightraider.com>